

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9394

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7234

LONDON ALSO FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS REPORTS ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH

THE NINE

1. BELGIAN PRESS OF DECEMBER 12, QUOTING BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE AS LABELING THE MEETING "UNIQUE AND HISTORIC", REPORTS ON THE STATED REACTIONS OF VARIOUS MINISTERS TO THE DECEMBER 11 MEETING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS OPPOSITE NUMBERS FROM THE EC NINE. VAN ELSLANDE REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "WE AGREED TO SEE EACH OTHER REGULARLY AND TO KEEP EACH OTHER MUTUALLY INFORMED, AS MUCH IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NINE AS IN THAT OF NATO. EVERYONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERLINE THAT CERTAIN MISUNDERSTANDINGS WERE UNFOUNDED."

2. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN AND THE SECRETARY ARE RE-
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PORDED AS HAVING STRESSED THE POSITIVE NATURE OF THE TALKS AND

THAT FACT THAT A NUMBER OF DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO THE US-EC DECLARATION HAD BEEN CLEARED UP, WITH ANDERSEN ADDING HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE DECLARATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE "NEAR FUTURE". DUTCH MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE SHORT MEETING "DID NOT PERMIT A SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION" BUT ADDING THAT "EVERYONE AGREED ON MORE FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS THAT SHOULD PREVENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS."

3. FRENCH MINISTER JOBERT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE US-EC DRAFT TEXT WAS AT FIRST VERY AMBITIOUS BUT THAT NOW IT WAS SEEN TO BE MORE WORTHWHILE TO DEAL IN TERMS OF GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY. "THE US," SIAD JOBERT, "WANTS EUROPE AS MUCH AS WE: EUROPEANS CONSTRUCTION IS INELUCTABLE." NOTING THAT THERE WILL ALWAYS BE COMPETITION BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS, JOBERT CALLED THIS "A HEALTHY THING."

4. THE SECRETARY IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I BELIEVE THAT THIS MEETING WILL CONSTITUTE A FOUNDATION FOR STILL CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE".

5. THE PRESS GIVES BELGIUM CREDIT FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE THAT RESULTED IN THE MEETING BUT CITES THE SECRETARY'S OWN INSISTENCE AS A FACTOR. BOOCHEVER

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